

scandium metal values and a solid phase at least partially depleted in the scandium solubilized metal values;

selectively extracting solubilized scandium metal values from said aqueous solution by contacting said aqueous solution with a sodium hydroxide stripping agent to produce a solid phase comprising scandium metal values and separating the solid phase from the remaining aqueous solution;

and drying and recovering the scandium metal values.

Current Status

Claims 3-21 are currently pending in the application, claim 21 having been added in the Preliminary Amendment filed November 30, 1999 with the CPA. Applicants are being required to perfect their election of a single disclosed species for further prosecution in the present application, and to list all claims readable thereon.

Election

Applicants hereby elect the process for selectively extracting scandium metal values as disclosed in the Example of the present Specification (pages 15-17). This embodiment of the present invention is described in new claim 22 set forth above. The elected species has the following characteristics:

Metal Value	:	Scandium
Source Material	:	ore residue from tantalum/niobium production process
First Acid	:	sulfuric acid
Second Acid	:	sulfuric acid
Leaching Agent	:	water
Stripping Agent	:	sodium hydroxide

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 22 reads on the species and claims 3-21 are generic.